

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 150830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHANISTAN REFUTES PAK SABOTAGE ALLEGATIONS;

MORE ON GUERRILLAS

REF: ISLAMABAD 6321

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN ISSUED STATMENT
JULY 10 IN REPLY TO PAK CHARGES OUTLINED REFTEL. AMONG HIS
REMARKS:

2. "UNFORTUNATELY PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAVE DEVELOPED THE
IMPERTINENT HABIT OF CONSIDERING AFGHANISTAN INVOLVED IN
EVERY SMALL OR BIG INCIDENT IN PAKISTAN, AND IT IS CERTAIN
THAT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE THEIR PRESENT LUDICROUS CLAIM.
BUT WE DEEM IT NECESSARY, AS WE HAVE SAID TIME AND TIME
AGAIN, ONCE AGAIN CATEGORICALLY AND EARNESTLY TO REJECT
THE BASELESS AND TOTALLY FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF PAKISTANI
AUTHORITIES THAT AFGHANISTAN TRAINS SABOTEURS INSIDE ITS
TERRITORY AND DISPATCHES THEM FOR ACTS OF SABOTAGE TO
PAKISTAN. AFGHANISTAN HAS NEVER INDULGED IN SUCH ACTIONS
AGAINST PAKISTAN."

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3. OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT PAK CHARGES CAME ON HEELS OF WIDELY BELIEVED RUMORS OF BOMB BLASTS IN JALALABAD AND KANDAHAR. WE CREDIT THESE RUMORS WITH FOLLOWING GRAINS OF TRUTH: AN EXPLOSION DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE JUNE 23 AT THE POLICE STATION IN JALALABAD, CAUSING DEATHS AND DAMAGING A SMALL ARMS ARSENAL; THERE HAS BEEN A "CONFESSION" BY SOME POLICE MEMBER THAT HE CAUSED THE BLAST AT THE INSTIGATION OF SOME AGENCY OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT. THERE HAS BESIDES BEEN AT LEAST ONE BOMB BLAST OUTSIDE CINEMA IN KANDAHAR, AND THIS POPULARLY ATTRIBUTED TO PAK SABOTEURS.

4. THESE BITS OF SUBSTANCE, THOUGH NOT ANNOUNCED OR EVEN ALLUDED TO BY AFGHAN AUTHORITIES, HAVE STOKED RUMOR MILLS TO PRODUCE FANCIFUL STORIES AND INTERPRETATIONS OF EVENTS. THEY HAVE AS WELL REVIVED A POPULAR BELIEF WE FIRST NOTICED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT PAK SABOTEURS AND AGENTS ARE IN THIS COUNTRY AND WORKING AGAINST ITS INTERESTS. (THE NUMBER OF PAK SABOTEURS IS OFTEN SAID TO BE 1,500. ONE RUMOR HAD IT THAT AN ASSASSINATION SQUAD HAD BEEN LAUNCHED FROM PAKISTAN TO MURDER AJMAL KHATTAK, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ARRESTS OF "SUSPICIOUS TYPES" WERE IN FACT MADE NEAR KHATTAK'S HOUSE.)

5. BENEATH ALL THIS SMOKE THERE MAY BE A BIT OF FIRE. AND IT OCCURS TO US THAT TIME HAS COME TO TAKE CLOSE LOOK AT PAK-AFGHAN CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES OF SABOTAGE AND GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. A FACTOR FOR CONFUSION WILL BE THAT IN THIS VOLATILE AREA ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER MAY WELL BE INDIVIDUAL AND SPONTANEOUS, WITHOUT EXPLICIT INSTIGATION OF EITHER GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED AFGHAN SITUATION, HOWEVER, MAKES SUCH RANDOM AND SPONTANEOUS ACTS HERE DIFFICULT AND ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS.

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